

NRR-PMDAPem Resource

From: Hall, Randy
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 10:40 AM
To: Ken McElroy
Cc: Joyce, Ryan M. (RMJOYCE@southernco.com); jjhutto@southernco.com
Subject: Hatch Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2 - Acceptance for Review of Request for Alternative HNP-ISI-ALT-05-05 (CAC Nos. MF9812 and MF9813)

July 14, 2017

Mr. G. Ken McElroy
Licensing Manager
Southern Nuclear Operating Company

Dear Ken,

By letter dated June 5, 2017 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML17156A831), the Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC, the licensee) submitted two requests for alternatives to the ASME Code requirements for the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (HNP). The first alternative request, HNP-ISI-ALT-05-05, if authorized pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(z)(1), would allow SNC to implement an alternative examination of a minimum of 25% of the specified reactor vessel nozzle-to-vessel welds and the inside radius sections, including at least one nozzle from each system and nominal pipe size, in accordance with Code Case N-702, in lieu of the code-required 100% examinations. The second alternative request, HNP-ISI-ALT-05-06, is being reviewed separately by the NRC staff (under CAC Nos. MF9851 and MF9852), and will be addressed under separate correspondence.

The purpose of this email is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of this request for alternative to the ASME Code requirements. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

The NRC staff has reviewed your application and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed alternative in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. If additional information is needed, you will be advised by separate correspondence.

Based on the information provided in your submittal, the NRC staff has estimated that this licensing request will take approximately 150 hours to complete. The NRC staff expects to complete this review within 12 months, which is consistent with your requested approval date of May 31, 2018. If there are emergent complexities or challenges in our review that would cause changes to the initial forecasted completion date or significant changes in the forecasted hours, the reasons for the changes, along with the new estimates, will be communicated during the routine interactions with the assigned project manager.

These estimates are based on the NRC staff's initial review of the application and they could change, due to several factors including requests for additional information, unanticipated addition of scope to the review, and review by NRC advisory committees or hearing-related activities.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-4032.

Sincerely,

Randy Hall, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch II-1
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
USNRC
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Created By: Randy.Hall@nrc.gov

Recipients:

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